

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An impact protection system for building openings, the system comprising:

a shutter having a shutter frame including two opposing elongated lateral frame members having facing openings;

shutter blades extending between the two lateral frame members along blade axes and having ends positioned in the facing openings;

the shutter blades being angled relative to longitudinal axes of the frame members and spaced along the longitudinal axes of the frame members;

the blades each having transverse edges extending along the blade axis, a side flange extending, at a first end, from one of said transverse edges of the blade and extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axes of the frame members;

a connecting flange extending from an end of the side flange opposite said first end, said connecting flange connecting to an adjacent blade at a location between its transverse edges and spaced from said transverse edges;

whereby the shutter blades provide a louvered appearance on one side and provide access to the facing openings between at least two of the shutter blades on the opposing side for insertion of bracing clips when the shutter is arranged for impact protection; and

a hinge provided along one of the lateral frame members for mounting the shutter to a wall adjacent an opening to be protected, the hinge permitting the shutter to pivot between an open position against the wall, in which a front face of the shutter is exposed outwardly from the wall and a rear face of the shutter faces the wall, and a closed position over the opening, in which the front face faces the opening and the rear face is exposed outwardly from the opening;

in the closed position, said facing openings including access areas adjacent the shutter blades on the exposed rear face of the shutter.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The system of Claim 24, wherein the wall mount includes a U-shaped receptacle for removably receiving the storm bar and a wall bracket to be secured to the wall and removably securing the U-shaped receptacle, said wall bracket providing a groove, said U-shaped receptacle providing a base that removably slides into said groove of said wall bracket, said U-shaped receptacle base being wider than a width of said storm bar, said U-shaped receptacle being formed by the extension of two from said base, whereby the base provides a portion of the U and provides a wide and secure base for holding the storm bar to the wall.

Claim 4 (original): The system of Claim 1, wherein there are at least two of the shutters.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The system of Claim 1, wherein the openings of the lateral frame members are each defined by a U-shaped cross section of the elongated frame member having two side walls and a terminal wall, ~~and the blades each have end flanges extending from the longitudinal edges of the blade,~~ the side flanges engaging the side walls and the blades being angled relative to the flanges and the side walls.

Claims 6-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): A shutter for an impact protection system for building openings, comprising:

a shutter frame including two opposing elongated lateral frame members having facing openings;

shutter blades extending between the two lateral frame members along blade axes and having ends positioned in the facing openings; and

~~the shutter blades being angled along the blade axes relative to the longitudinal axes of~~ the frame members and spaced along the frame members;

the blades each having transverse edges extending along the blade axis, a side flange extending, at a first end, from one of said transverse edges of the blade and extending substantially parallel to the longitudinal axes of the frame members;

a connecting flange extending from an end of the side flange opposite said first end, said connecting flange connecting to an adjacent blade at a location between its transverse edges and spaced from said transverse edges;

whereby the shutter blades provide a louvered appearance on one side and provide access to the facing openings between at least two of the shutter blades on the opposing side for insertion of bracing clips when the shutter is arranged for impact protection.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The shutter of claim 10, wherein the openings of the lateral frame members are each defined by a U-shaped cross section of the elongated frame member having two side walls and a terminal wall, ~~and the blades each have end flanges extending from the longitudinal edges of the blade~~, the flanges engaging the side walls and the blades being angled relative to the flanges and the side walls.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): The shutter of Claim 12, wherein the connection flange and the adjacent blade are removably connected.

Claim 14 (original): The shutter of Claim 13, wherein the connection flange and the adjacent blade are joined by a tongue and groove connection.

Claim 15 (original): The shutter of Claim 14, wherein the connection flange is formed with the adjacent blade over a series of blades.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A shutter blade assembly, comprising:

a first shutter blade and an adjacent shutter blade, each having:

an elongated blade body having transverse edges parallel to the longitudinal axis of the blade body;

at least one side flange extending at an angle from said blade body along one of said transverse edges, said side flange being adapted to engage a shutter frame and position said blade body at an angle relative to the shutter frame;

a connecting flange extending at an angle from the side flange along its length on a side opposite the blade body;

said connecting flange of the first shutter blade being adapted to connect to the blade body of the adjacent shutter blade at a location between its transverse edges and spaced from said transverse edges.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The shutter blade assembly of Claim 16, wherein the connecting flange of the first shutter blade is permanently connected to the blade body of the adjacent shutter blade.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The shutter blade assembly of Claim 16, further comprising a third shutter blade having an elongated blade body; said blade body have an angled side flange extending therefrom and a connecting flange extending from the side flange;

wherein the connecting flange of the adjacent blade is permanently connected to the blade body of the third blade, whereby a triple shutter blade assembly is provided and having a connecting flange available for connection to further shutter blades.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The shutter blade assembly of Claim 16, wherein the connecting flange of the first shutter blade is permanently affixed at its end to the blade body of the adjacent shutter blade.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The shutter blade assembly of Claim 16, wherein the connecting flange of the first shutter blade is removably connected to the blade body of the adjacent shutter blade.

Claim 21 (original): The shutter blade assembly of Claim 20, wherein the connecting flange of the first shutter blade has a tongue connector and the adjacent shutter blade body has a mating groove for receiving the tongue connector.

Claim 22 (original): The shutter blade assembly of Claim 16, wherein each blade further comprises a second side flange extending from a longitudinal edge of the blade body opposite said connecting flange, said side flanges being generally planar and parallel.

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): An impact protection system for building openings, the system comprising:

a shutter having a shutter frame including two opposing elongated lateral frame members having facing openings;

shutter blades extending between the two lateral frame members along blade axes and having ends positioned in the facing openings;

the shutter blades being angled relative to longitudinal axes of the frame members and spaced along the longitudinal axes of the frame members;

whereby the shutter blades provide a louvered appearance on one side and provide access to the facing openings between at least two of the shutter blades on the opposing side for insertion of bracing clips when the shutter is arranged for impact protection;

a hinge provided along one of the lateral frame members for mounting the shutter to a wall adjacent an opening to be protected, the hinge permitting the shutter to pivot between an open position against the wall, in which a front face of the shutter is exposed outwardly from the wall and a rear face of the shutter faces the wall, and a closed position over the opening, in which the front face faces the opening and the rear face is exposed outwardly from the opening;

in the closed position, said facing openings including access areas adjacent the shutter blades on the exposed rear face of the shutter;

a storm bar for extending across the shutter and mounting to the wall on opposite sides of the opening;

a storm bar clip secured to the storm bar and having a shutter insert for insertion into the access area to secure the storm bar to the shutter; and

a wall mount for securing the storm bar to the wall on opposite sides of the opening,

whereby the storm bar ~~can be~~ is secured to the shutter without the use of bolts or other removable fasteners.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The system of Claim 24, further comprising a connection flange for connecting with an adjacent blade.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the connection flange extends from an end flange of a first blade for connection to an adjacent blade.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the connection flange and the adjacent blade are removably connected.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The system of Claim 27, wherein the connection flange and the adjacent blade are joined by a tongue and groove connection.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the connection flange is formed with the adjacent blade over a series of blades.